

SECOND CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

(Member of the United Church of Christ)

KITTERY, MAINE

I. History

Almost one hundred fifty years ago, on May 25, 1843, the Second Christian Church was formally organized in the newly completed meeting house. The following statement was signed by the first 26 members:

"We the undersigned agree to unite ourselves together as a Church of God to be known by the name of the Second Christian Church of Kittery, Maine. And further agree to take the Scriptures as our only rule of faith and practise. We also agree to watch for each other's spiritual good, to admonish in love, and to use all possible exertions for the building of each other up in the most holy faith."

Guided by a faith in God and the revelation of Jesus Christ as the son of God and the head of the church, this small group acting in this faith brought into existence this church on its present site. The original building was to serve its purpose of worship and fellowship until February 16, 1896, when a fire destroyed the building which had just been newly renovated. All that was saved from the fire was the church bell which still rings in the present steeple, and the church organ, whose pipes still grace the front of the sanctuary.

Before the year of the fire was past, a new building which stands today was dedicated on December 10, 1896, the cornerstone having been laid on May 25, 1896, the 53rd anniversary. During the next twenty years a false metal ceiling and a hard wood floor were added to the present sanctuary.

In 1931, the church voted to approve and join the Congregation-Christian merger, and become a member of the York County Association of Congregation-Christian Churches to which we still belong. At this time the name of the church was changed to the Second Christian Congregational Church of Kittery.

In 1943, the church celebrated its Centennial Anniversary, and began its second century of Christian service.

On February 19, 1961, the church voted to become a member in the United Church of Christ, which was a merger of the Congregational-Christian Churches and the Evangelical-Reformed Churches.

This is a short history of this church which is noticeably deficient in that it does not list the many members who have worshiped and worked within the faith of the church. It is not possible to list the many known "fore-members" of this church because of the limited space here; and there are many members whose names are lost in history, and only anonymously can their work and effort be seen in the church.

Entrusted now to our care is the work which they began in faith - a faith partly founded in the knowledge and hope that we would be here today dedicating what we have added to the church and rededicating ourselves to the purposes and faith on which it all began. Perhaps a later history will little record what we

have said and done here; but Tomorrow's Church will know, just as we know, that the work and faith of those in the past through the inspiration of God is the hope, the faith, and the love we hold today and all the tomorrows to come.

Praise be to God for the many who have come before us, to those who now are with us and to those who are yet to come. Amen.

II. Ministers

The following served as pastors of the Second Christian Church:

George M. Payne	1843-1857
Elder Knowlton	1857-1858
George M. Payne	1858-1861
Lewis Phillips	1861-1864
O. J. Wait	1864-1865
Lewis Phillips	1865-1868
I. H. Waterhouse	1868-1869
John Goss	1869-1870
S. D. Hutchinson	1870-1878
S. M. Bowdish	1878-1880
Charles Beck	1880-1884
E. E. Colburn	1884-1891
John G. Dutton	1891-1899
Edwin O. Hall	1899-1903
Joseph P. Laird	1903-1905
Edward H. Macy	1905-1911
Arnaldo Natino	1911-1914
C. J. Yeomans	1914-1915
Carl L. Nichols	1916-1919
M. L. Leverett	1921
John E. Everingham	1921-1925
Anson Williams	1926-1927
Norman Eddy	1927-1928
Conrad Landelias	1928-1929
Harold E. Young	1929-1934
J. Roy Dinsmore	1934-1942
G. Stephen Johnston	1943-1948
John Johnson	1948-1954
Edward Swansburg	1955-1962
John Miller	1962-1966
William R. Baran	1967-1984
Stephen Ericson	1985-present

III. Spiritual

A. Minister

The Reverend Stephen Ericson was called to Second Christian on December 30, 1984 to

1. Join the congregation in their faith as stated in the Covenant
2. link the congregation to the Association, Conference and the United Church of Christ.
3. Assume the duties of leadership and serve the congregation.

The minister serves as the link between the spiritual, governing and social bodies of the church.

More specifically in the spiritual arena he is called upon to lead worship, preach the gospel, officiate at weddings, baptisms and funerals, administer the sacraments, call upon members and friends, lead educational opportunities and counsel.

His role in the governing body is to administrate, and work with church committees and boards. He represents the church in the wider church community, conference and association.

B. Diaconate

The Diaconate is the spiritual arm of the church. Their chief responsibilities are to

- work with the minister to maintain a dignified and orderly worship service
- make sure the sanctuary is in an orderly and worshipful condition
- help serve communion
- provide for worship leadership when the minister is away
- and plan special services (like Maundy Thursday)

2. Pastoral Relations

The pastoral relations committee consists of three members. One member represents the Diaconate, one member represents the Prudential Committee and one represents the congregation. The goal of the committee is to maintain

- good relations
- mutual trust
- open communication

between the minister and the congregation. Any problems or concerns should be brought to the attention of one or more members of this committee. The committee is also responsible for reviewing the salary and benefits of the pastor.

C. Mission

1. Overall

The Mission Committee oversees the mission life of the church. They plan special offering opportunities throughout the church year like One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need,

and the Just Peace offering. They also dispense money to individuals and to organizations in need in the Seacoast area through the discretionary fund.

2. Pack Rats

The Pack Rats work each week mending and packing used clothing and household goods to distribute to those in need. In 1988, over \$18,000 worth of clothing was sent to a dozen different organizations.

3. Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels was started over fifteen years ago to help elderly people who were unable to prepare meals for themselves.

Over thirty of our church friends and members help deliver these meals to about ten or twelve families.

Our church takes care of these meals every third week, and the schedule is planned so that the same person doesn't go more often than every sixth week.

Meals are not delivered on Saturday or Sunday or holidays or in bad storms in the winter. Meal receivers are warned to keep some food on hand in case of emergencies.

We can always use more deliverers. Anyone interested, contact Earle Bickmore 439-9385.

D. Education

The Christian Education Committee is composed of six members plus the Church School Superintendent and the minister. Each member serves a three year term. Their goal is to oversee the formalized spiritual growth of the congregation. They support and direct youth and adult classes. All classes are open to any interested parties in the community.

Youth education consists of Sunday school classes and Youth Fellowship. Each Sunday from September to June the children are invited to attend the beginning of the worship service with the adults. Then after a family message directed especially to them they adjourn to their classes downstairs. There are approximately 25 children participating in our Sunday School Program. The Youth Group is directed at teenagers and is a time of fellowship, service and fun.

Adult education consists of a book study group. Periodically, a book is chosen for study and an intimate group gets together to read and discuss the contents. The past topics have varied from child rearing to spiritual journeys but the approach is always a Christian perspective.

The education board also organizes child care during the worship services.

E. Music

Music is an important part of the worship service of our church. The choir sings each Sunday and at special services throughout the year. Barbara Kenney is our organist and music director.

The Music Committee is made up of the minister, the organist/choir director and one choir member. They meet to select music for special times.

In our church family we have a very special person who became a choir member in 1915 and choir director in 1937 and organist in 1944 and had held the positions of director and organist until 1982. Mildred Gerry gave so much to our church although she originally took the job on a temporary basis.

IV. Governing Body

A. Prudential

The Prudential Committee consist of 6 elected members with three year terms, six diaconate representatives and all the church officers.

Meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at 7:30 and are open to the public although only members are allowed to vote.

The duties of the Prudential Committee are:

1. maintain and care for church property
2. oversee all financial matters
3. work with the church officers

B. Financial

The Financial Committee is a subcommittee of the Prudential Committee. They discuss financial plans and make recommendations to the Prudential Committee.

C. Stewardship

The Stewardship committee is another subcommittee of the Prudential Committee. This committee usually plans, with the minister, the fall Stewardship campaign to match the talents and resources of the church's members and friends with the needs of the congregation. They choose a theme and discuss how best it can be presented to the church.

D. Building

Our church building was built in 1896 and has served many people well. During the church's second century, an electric Baldwin Organ and Chimes were installed in October, 1957; and the new addition was added to the rear of the church and the kitchen remodeled with their dedication taking place on January 24, 1960.

In 1968, a new tiled, suspended ceiling and the nine chandeliers which light the sanctuary were installed. The old single chandelier was sold to the Old Meeting House in Strawberry Banke, which is now the Children's Museum in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Also, the hardwood floors in the sanctuary were sanded and refinished.

We have a large vestry providing ample room for large meetings or dinners. Our kitchen is very workable and efficient. There is a ladies' parlor with comfortable furnishings and varied library. This room is also used on Sundays to view the video tape of the worship service for those who can not climb the stairs to the sanctuary. Our minister's office offers a quiet, private place for counseling sessions. All of these rooms are on the lower floor of the building and are accessible to the handicapped by a ramp from the driveway. This entrance was added in 1988 and funded by proceeds from the Evergreen Festival.

We provide facilities for worship, Sunday School and Nursery every Sunday except for one month of the summer when we meet at the St. Mark's Methodist Church.

E. Altar Guild

The Altar Guild has six members that work to maintain the appearance of the sanctuary. They have taken responsibility for

- floral arrangements
- presentation of birth and baptismal flowers
- seasonal decorations
- scheduling acolytes
- ordering memorial plants

V. Social

A. Ladies Circle

According to the older ladies of the church the Circle has been in existence nearly as long as the church and has always taken an active part in the life of the church.

Years ago the ladies had all day meetings, lunch was served (either pot luck dishes, chowders or stews) quilts, aprons, bandages for the Naval Hospital and layettes for the Red Cross during the World War II years were made.

Rummage sales were very popular in the early days as ways to raise money. Each sale netted the Circle nearly \$100. Twenty to twenty-five members belonged then.

In more recent years the Ladies have helped make layettes, donated blanket money, put together Health and School Kits for Church World Service at New Windsor, Maryland. Some members traveled to New Windsor in 1977 to pack clothes and to see how our mission work goes on there.

Today we donate to

the Sweetser Children's Home, Saco

Kittery Holiday Baskets

Burdin Chapel, Wellington, Maine

Other activities have been card parties, fund raisers and work on the Evergreen Festival.

Our regular membership is small. However, we continue to contribute as much as we can.

B. Doorkeepers

The Doorkeepers were originally a Sunday School Class started by Mrs. C. Charles Effie Manson, a Sunday School teacher. It was her aim that all the young ladies in her class should grow up to be Christians and to work for their church and God. The class has now grown from a Sunday School Class into a group of ladies, young and old, who still work for their church. The Doorkeepers Class was started in the early 1920's and now meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM

C. Evergreen Festival

In reading old records of the church, we found that the Ladies Circle held a Bazaar in November or December for many years. About 1958 it became known as the Evergreen Festival in which all groups and people of the church took part. At one time we served both a luncheon and a supper on the fair day. Now we only serve a luncheon but the simple menu of beef stew and sandwiches really draws a crowd. For many years the fair was held on a Friday and about 1985 it was changed to a Saturday to accommodate working people. The fair has become a real group effort that we all look forward to each fall.

D. Fellowship

1. Coffee times

On the first Sunday of each month there is a formal coffee. The church has tablecloths for us to use and a silver set given to the church in memory of Mrs. Doris Hosmer. There is in the kitchen a list of what is needed to put on this coffee time. It is a time to visit and talk with your church family. In reading some of the church records it appears that this custom was started on Mother's Day in 1974.

2. Family Night Supper

The Family Night Supper was called a Fellowship Supper and started around 1954. It is usually held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM. Those who come bring a salad, casserole, etc. to share. The sponsoring group furnishes the dessert, sets the tables and does the clean up. There is a money fund which pays for the coffee, butter, rolls, etc. A bowl is placed on each table for a money donation which keeps this fund going. In July we have a cookout. Everyone brings their own meats to grill and weather permitting we eat outdoors. The January, July, April and October suppers are followed by quarterly meetings at 7:30. Following the other suppers we often are fortunate to have some type of entertainment.

3. Family Retreats

Since 1987 many of us have retreated to Pilgrim Lodge, a small group of cabins situated on Lake Cobbessseecontee near Litchfield, Maine. The camp is owned by the Maine Conference of the United Church of Christ. We spend a quiet weekend getting to know each other and ourselves better. We take turns preparing our meals in the main lodge. The schedule is kept light and there are many recreational activities to occupy the campers.

Howard J. Nelson "Jim" Howard

Church Calendar

Sunday	Mar. 21	<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>
	10:00 a.m.	Worship and Church School
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship & Refreshment in the Vestry
	4:00 p.m.	New Member Orientation Meeting in the Library
Monday	Mar. 22	7:00 p.m. Seaside Ecumenical Handbell Choir rehearsal
Tuesday	Mar. 23	6:00 p.m. Daisies meeting in the vestry
Wed.	Mar. 24	6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Service at St. Mark's United Methodist
Thursday	Mar. 25	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pack Rats Thrift Shop Open
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday	Mar. 28	<i>Palm Sunday and Easter Egg Hunt</i>
	9:45 a.m.	<i>Children arrive for Palm Procession</i>
	10:00 a.m.	Worship and Church School
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship & Refreshment in the Vestry
	4:00 p.m.	New Member Orientation Meeting in the Library

Advance Dates:

Thursday	Apr. 1	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
	6:00 p.m.	Potluck Supper / Communion / Tenebrae
Sunday	Apr. 4	<i>Easter</i>
	6:00 a.m.	Sunrise Service at 1st Cong'l in Kittery Point
	7:00 a.m.	Breakfast at 1st Congregational in Kittery Pt.
	10:00 a.m.	Easter Celebration at Second Christian

Easter Lilies or Tulips are available from Carrie Varney to grace our sanctuary on Easter Sunday as memorial gifts. Cost is \$8.95. Please speak with Carrie by March 20th (439-1688)

Today is the last opportunity to get articles and notices into the April edition of *The Clapper*. Please see Rev. Howard or Beverly Wurm, or leave information in the secretary's mailbox. Thanks!

"See what love the Father has given us,

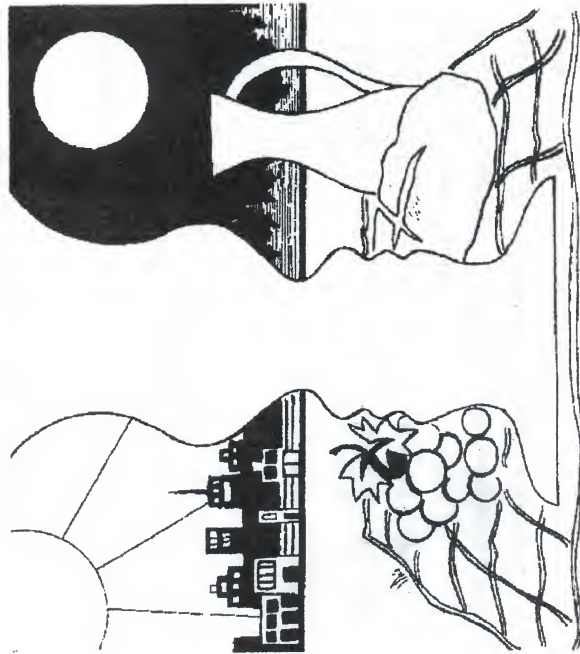


that we should be called children of God."

1 John 3:1

Second Christian Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
33 Government Street
Kittery, Maine



LENTEN CONVERSATIONS

Church Staff

Ministers: All The Members & Worshipers
Pastor: Rev. Nelson "Jim" Howard, III, D.Min.
Organist: Barbara Kenney
Choir Director: Elaine Hansberry
Treasurer: Pam Cooper
Secretary: Beverly Wurm
Custodian: Jim Cole

Church Office 439-3903

For immediate pastoral assistance call 821-3903 (a local call anywhere in Maine)
Rev. Howard (603) 329-1125